## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1–34 (Cancelled).

Claim 35 (New): A modular external defibrillator system for treating a patient, comprising:

a base containing a display and an external defibrillator module configured to deliver a defibrillation shock to the patient;

a first pod operable when separated from the base, the first pod having a first patient parameter module and connectable to the patient to collect first patient data related to at least a first patient vital sign, the first pod capable of wirelessly transmitting the first patient data to the base; and

a second pod operable when separated from the base, the second pod having a second patient parameter module and connectable to the patient to collect second patient data related to at least a second patient vital sign independent from the first vital sign, the second pod capable of wirelessly transmitting the second patient data to the base,

in which, when one of the first or the second patient data is transmitted to the base, the base is configured to display an aspect of the transmitted one of the first or the second patient data.

Claim 36 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 35, in which

the external defibrillator module is configured to deliver the defibrillation shock based on the one of the first or the second patient data transmitted to the base.

Claim 37 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 35, in which

the first pod contains an interpretive algorithm to analyze a patient condition based on the first patient data.

Claim 38 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 35, in which while the base is receiving the first patient data, the base is configured to sense a nearby presence of the second pod, and provide an alert in response to sensing the second pod.

Claim 39 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 35, in which the one of the first or the second patient data that is transmitted to the base is encrypted.

Claim 40 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 35, in which the system is configured to select one of the first or the second pods over the other to transmit to the base the patient data the selected pod collects.

Claim 41 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which the base is configured to control which of the first or the second pods is selected over the other.

Claim 42 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which the selection of the selected pod is based on which of the first or the second pods is electrically directly connected to the base.

Claim 43 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which the selection of the selected pod is based on a comparison of the first patient data with the second patient data for detecting an abnormality in either the first patient data or the second patient data.

Claim 44 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which a unique pod identifier is transmitted from the selected pod to the base.

Claim 45 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which the selected pod is configured to provide an indication when prompted by the base to confirm that the selected pod has been selected over the other pod.

Claim 46 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which, when the base and the selected pod are communicating wirelessly over a link, if the link degrades, one of the base or the selected pod is configured to provide an alert.

Claim 47 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which, when the base and the selected pod are communicating wirelessly over a link, if the link degrades, less patient data is carried to the base.

Claim 48 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 40, in which, when the base and the selected pod are communicating wirelessly over a link, if the link is lost, the system is configured to output an alarm.

Claim 49 (New): The external defibrillator system of claim 48, in which

if the link is not reestablished within a preset time period after the alarm is output, the selected pod configured to enter a sleep mode.

Claim 50 (New): A method for a modular external defibrillator system for treating a patient, the system including: a base containing a display and an external defibrillator module configured to deliver a defibrillation shock to the patient, a first pod operable when separated from the base, the first pod having a first patient parameter module and connectable to the patient to collect first patient data related to at least a first patient vital sign, the first pod capable of wirelessly transmitting the first patient data to the base, and a second pod operable when separated from the base, the second pod having a patient parameter module and connectable to the patient to collect second patient data related to at least a second patient vital sign independent from the first vital sign, the second pod capable of wirelessly transmitting the second patient data to the base, the method comprising:

selecting one of the first or the second pods over the other;

establishing a communications link between the base and the selected pod, in which the one of the first or the second patient data collected by the selected pods is transmitted wirelessly to the base; and

displaying at the display an aspect of the transmitted one of the first or the second patient data.

Claim 51 (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising:

delivering a defibrillation shock based on the one of the first or the second patient data transmitted to the base.

Claim 52 (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising:

analyzing a patient condition based on an interpretive algorithm in the selected pod and the patient data collected by the selected pod.

Claim 53 (New): The method of claim 50, further comprising: while the base has the communications link established with the selected pod, sensing a nearby presence of the second pod, and providing an alert in response to sensing the second pod.

Claim 54 (New): The method of claim 50, in which

the one of the first or the second patient data that is transmitted to the base is encrypted.

Claim 55 (New): The method of claim 50, in which

the base controls which of the first or the second pods is selected over the other.

Claim 56 (New): The method of claim 55, in which

the selection is made by electrically directly connecting the one of the first or the second pods to the base.

Claim 57 (New): The method of claim 55, in which

the selection is made by comparing the first patient data with the second patient data for detecting an abnormality in either the first patient data or the second patient data.

Claim 58 (New): The method of claim 55, in which

a unique pod identifier is carried from the selected pod to the base.

Claim 59 (New): The method of claim 55, in which

the selected pod provides an indication when prompted by the base to confirm that the selected pod has been selected over the other pod.

Claim 60 (New): The method of claim 55, in which

if the link degrades, one of the base and the selected pod provides an alert.

Claim 61 (New): The method of claim 50, in which

if the link degrades, less patient data is carried to the base.

Claim 62 (New): The method of claim 50, in which

if the link is lost, an alarm is output.

Claim 63 (New): The method of claim 62, in which

if the link is not reestablished within a preset time period after the alarm is output, the selected pod enters a sleep mode.